

Appl. No. 09/808,001
Atty. Docket No. 8380L\$/PRGA 0103 PUSP
Amdt. Dated 07/16/2008
Reply to Office Action of 04/09/2008
Customer No. 27752

REMARKS

Claim Status

Claims 1-14 and 76 are pending in the present application.

Claims 1 and 76 have been amended by replacing “a” with “the” to more particularly express that the document referred to in any of elements (e) through (h) can be the same document referred to in element (d).

Claims 1 and 76, element (e), have been amended in response to the pending 35 USC 103 rejection. Antecedent basis for the changes to these claims is found in the specification at page 11, lines 1-12.

No new matter is believed to be added. No additional claims fee is believed to be due.

Claim Rejections

(1) Claim Rejections - 35 USC 112

Claims 1-14 and 76 have been rejected under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph on the basis stated in the Office Action that the term ‘a document’ in steps (d) – (h) are vague because it is not clear whether this is the same document in step (b) or a different document. Independent Claims 1 and 76 have been amended to replace “a” with “the” in reference to the recited document in elements (e) – (h) and adding explicit antecedent basis for the term “locked document” in element (d).

(2) Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 1-14 and 76 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over AAPA (Applicant Admitted Prior Art) in view of Grainger (US 2002/0111824) and Parks (US 6,038,573).

In the pending Office Action, it was noted that features relied upon in Applicants’ argument submitted in their prior Response are not recited in the claims. Applicants submit that the meaning of the terms “locking” the document and rendering the document “unchangeable” should be read in light of the meanings clearly set forth in the

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specification. However in order to facilitate further examination of the Application Claims 1 and 76 have been amended in order to particularly point out that the step of locking the documents in Applicant's invention prior to circulating the documents to an approval group is distinctly different from the locking step suggested in Parks.

The locking step in Parks refers to locking access of the document to a specific set of users. The locking step of Applicants' invention refers to locking the documents to prevent a set of users who have access to the documents from modifying or changing the documents. This step is not taught or suggested in Parks. Further, the combination of employing two separate and distinct locking steps – Step (d), which involves electronically locking the draft technical standard to prevent an approval group from making changes, while permitting certain, approved users to unlock the document if changes are needed, and Step (g), which involves rendering the document “unchangeable”.

The clause “rendering the locked document with the draft technical standard ‘unchangeable’ “ is clear on its face and is well understood in the art to mean that the document cannot be easily changed using standard tools such as spreadsheets and word processors (see the Specification at page 12, lines 10 – 19). Applicants submit that no further amendment with respect to this clause should be required or deemed necessary.

(3) Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 1-14 and 76 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over AAPA (Applicant Admitted Prior Art) in view of Grainger (US 2002/0111824) and Parks (US 6,038,573), as applied above, in further view of Jeffery (US 6,957,384).

AAPA, Grainger, and Parks were applied as previously addressed in this or previous Responses. Jeffery was cited for its teaching (according to the Office Action) of automatic attachment of comments or attachments to a draft document. Jeffery does not relate to or overcome the failings of AAPA, Grainger, and Parks to disclose or suggest the claimed invention. Therefore Applicant maintains that the pending claims are patentable over the present rejection for the same reasons as discussed above.

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Conclusion

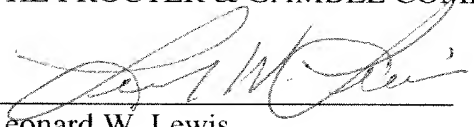
In light of the above remarks, it is requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the pending rejections and objections. Favorable action in the case is respectfully requested.

This response represents an earnest effort to place the application in proper form and to distinguish the invention as now claimed from the applied references. In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of this application, entry of the amendments presented herein, and allowance of Claims 1-14 and 76 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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